

403 Chung Wha Road, Nanking, Ku., July 2, 1946.

Dear Grace and family,

I am on my way in to Hofei. I am stopping a few days with Edna and Margaret in South City, as when I left Shanghai I was not sure that Mac had returned from Hofei or not.

I was all packed to take a truck ride to Wuhu this morning to call on the Regional UNRRA and Regional CNRRA representatives before going to Hofei. This is important for whatever aid I am to receive from those organizations will have to come from this Anhwei Regional office and not from Shanghai, the head office.

The route from Nanking to Hofei is now best via Pengpu, rather than by Wuhu, especially if one has much baggage or a small trunk, as I have. There is truck service from the railway to Hofei via Pengpu, but nothing regular via Wuhu. So I am planning on returning to Nanking after my visit to Wuhu, and going in via Pengpu. Mr. Chu Shao-T'an is going with me to help me. He has just finished his year's work at the Seminary and is returning home. So this will be a great help to me, especially with baggage.

I was to leave for Wuhu this morning at eight. But a heavy rain came up about 6 AM which has postponed this trip. I hope I can go on tomorrow. But if delayed too long on account of rain, I may have to proceed to Hofei the Pengpu way and leave the Wuhu visit till a little later. I must get all of my baggage placed in Hofei and then travel, when that is absolutely necessary, with only hand luggage. Travel anywhere beyond Nanking is almost impossible yet, and especially for baggage and freight; and so expensive. With baggage a horse carriage or an old car-taxi, the only way to get baggage to Hsia Kwan, costs from CNC10,000 to CNC20,000 (US\$5.00 to \$10.00).

Mac reports that our house is in fair condition. He slept there without nets. Some screens were on but had holes needing patching. Goulter's house, where Wenona and Lyrel are existing, is not in such good condition; and the stabling of the cows in the servants quarters (no barn) right up against the back of the kitchen and the manure seepage into the well was a very serious health hazard, and the odor coming in from the back when the wind was in the wrong direction was terrible. Mac said the girls were considering moving over to our house and having a one-house establishment there when I get there.

The missionaries living conditions are most crude, the diet is not balanced, and cannot be made so, for things just are not available at any cost,--and we are limited in cost although the board is very generous. Enough money for a sumptuous diet in Yakima would only just get us by here. No one gets milk except for coffee and cereal. Canned milk is US\$0.40 to 0.50 per tin and Klim powder US\$1.00 to 2.00 per lb. With a cook's wages at US\$25.00 and up (the cost of one don of rice per month, the basis for judgement) there will be not too much left of the single person's \$125.00 per month for the expensive living cost; and nothing for clothes, etc. No one is kicking out here, but all feel caught in a malstrom, caused more than anything else by civil war.

Lewis Smythe is still planning on having his wife and two girls come out in August if the civil war is to be settled. But they are still holding their apartment in Florida to run to if they get word from him at the last moment not to come. They will be in the Shanghai School about the same grades as our girls would. In fairness to our girls I am having a terrible debate within about bringing them out this fall. The more I consider the lack of accommodations in Shanghai and the increasing worsening of political conditions, and the inadequacy of all missionary diets out here, the more foolish I know it to be to drag them out from their comfortable situation there in Yakima. I know they would never forgive us for doing it in years to come. So I am about to have Margaret cable to the UCMS to postpone your sailings. Lewis Smythe is about the only one out here not agreeing with me.

Our last shipment of ten trunks and refrigerator, and the 278 sacks of seed--have arrived in Shanghai on the "H.H. Raymond". But no Original Bill of Lading has appeared yet, as was the case with the "Gonzaga Victory" shipment. This again greatly complicates things, but I am trying to take it more ~~calmly~~ calmly this time and just wait until it gets to the Friends Ambulance Unit, and let the things mount up storage costs until such a time. My nervous system is so ragged now that I just must take things easier. The terrifying 12 tons of seeds dumped onto me did nearly kill me, as I stated in my cable begging you to stop the flood. Of course you didn't know what an unsolvable

situation you and Harold had put me into. Only an UNRRA and UNRPA's millions of dollars could handle such an order. I was most fortunate to get them to take over on the entire three shipments of seeds. That was God's answer to prayer. And it may turn out alright as a relief measure for China, for UNRRA really does need the seeds.

Also our old clothes and fruit idea was a great mistake. We could not have known this ahead of time either, for who could foresee the terrible waterfront pilfering situation in Shanghai. It gets worse daily. Businessmen are stopping importation because of this condition. Absolute hopeless anarchy is fast developing in China, and especially in wicked Shanghai, the worst spot. Do you want your girls in Shanghai alone with that and the rapidly developing anti-foreign feeling?

Reilly Friedline probably did not send Fred Young's \$500.00 check in to the Airplane fund as I asked him to do, but probably put it in the Corpron Rehabilitation Fund, or maybe hasn't sent it in yet. I think this because Mr. Payne has asked me to send him authorization to draw upon the Corpron Fund for the sight draft I wrote as a deposit with the tentative order for the Ercoupe. Now I hope he does not honor it for the airplane idea is OUT. Cancel the order from the Central Aircraft in Yakima and get the \$500.00 sight draft back and leave the money in the Corpron Fund, with Fred Young's permission. Now you must attend to these things Grace. I am helpless at this distance to do anything about it. What a mess we are in!! Will we never get clear of it? I am fully expecting to have to use much of what I get from the sale of our Oldsmobile to straighten out our excess baggage and freight shipments handling charges and customs out here. We have gone far over the UCMS allowances. We just were fools in our plans, on the basis of pre-war China. We thought we were allowing for worsened conditions. But we could not know just how bad they were. So we are the goats. We must fight our way out of it some way. Only the sale of the car gives me hope for finally getting out of this. I shouldn't be making you feel so bad by telling you all of this. But you and I are both in this up to our necks; and it's not making you feel any worse than it does me,--in it and almost no way out visible. My only hope is the knowledge that we are doing our best to do the Lord's work and He is still our help. And it is true that little by little things are working out.

Send no more freight. Whatever you need to bring, if you do finally come out this year, bring only baggage with you. The freight situation is getting worse day by day. There is no use just sacrificing good things. Better give it away in Yakima or Seattle. I will be surprised if 10% of the Seattle old clothes and fruit gets to Hofei. Part of it is now on its way; but it will cost 500% more than it is worth for freight, handling, etc. and at that we get part of the transportation from Shanghai to Hofei paid by CNRRA.

I am borrowing a Baird-Parker knife handle to use with the blades I have with me. I only have these blades because they came too late to pack in the trunks. Dr. Daniels is giving me this. He is working himself to death without Dr. Brady's return, and Trimmer not here yet. Mrs. Daniels is a great help to him. I surely wish you were free to come; but your job is to be with the girls first and with me secondly. Daniels have their family off of their hands so are free to be together.

If a Nationalist-Communist settlement can be worked out and peace prevail things should improve rapidly and you might get out in the spring, if that is wise from the girls schooling point of view. There is nothing here to bring DOC out. He would be wasting a year,--even Lewis Smythe agrees to that. So get him in school this fall if you can. There is no question at all about his remaining at home. There is no use bringing out excess baggage to be a problem if things worsen. In such a time as requirement for evacuations children are or become Excess Baggage. We surely have a problem on our hands as to our duty to the kids, and how best to work it out. But it will all work out right in the end, I'm sure.

Mr. Plopper has been sick and lost a great deal of ~~body~~ weight. It started out by their eating a straight Chinese diet with the family in their home when they arrived, and he can't eat Chinese food. Then he got dysentery for a week. Now he is better but has lost much weight.

Margaret Lawrence is having dizzy spells, that are getting more frequent. This is probably due to disturbance in her left ear, where she is losing her hearing. During these onsets of dizziness she tends to fall to the left, the defective hearing side. She needs the services of an expert neurologists. There are no experts in China

today.

Stella was in the Wuhu Gen. Hosp. with dysentery for a week. But is reported fully recovered now. She is living in 11 Heo Gia Hsian, alone.

Searle Bates is in Japan for the War Crime Trials. He had hoped to be back in three weeks, but now it seems to be dragging out and it may be months before he gets here. He and Lewis are the University of Nanking. Lewis said Sunday, "The University will be bankrupt in three months unless something turns up." He is the treasurer now Miss Priest has just gone home.

Mr. Marx should be in Shanghai now; but we have had no word from him yet. I had arranged for him and Miss Pauline Starn to stay at the Mortensen's. Grace Lew was to meet their ship and give them my letter. I hope she met them. It would be pretty awful to be dumped in Shanghai, with baggage and no place arranged to stay in.

I have just today discovered that our hospital does not have a budget. They have been receiving no money from the Mission. The \$110.00 we sent out is all they have had on salaries. Some repair money and supplies have come from relief organizations. I don't know how they have gotten on. So that is what is ahead. I have to get there and look the situation over, and make up a budget, and then try to get it from UCMS rehabilitation funds. So we will probably be on a very meager plane for a long time. If I had only know all this before I left USA I certainly would not have brought so much grand equipment along, to have to pay handling and duty on. There just is no money here to pay all this with. I see no other way but to use our car money to pay this and to run the hospital on. So maybe there is another reason for your remaining in Yakima, to raise money for the work. Also you need to be there among good old Yakima friends who will not let you down, and will see that you lack for nothing. While out here you will be adding to the already meager Rehabilitation allowances, that are not enough to properly care for the missionaries already out here. And prices are rapidly going up so fast that by the time our askings for our needs are in America it is already out of date and too little.

I may be able to get on on this set up. But a whole family CAN NOT. If peace comes then things will improve. If civil war breaks out in earnest then the end is not far off for a ll of us. So just stay put for the time being.

It is going to be hard to get along without you, for I need you so. But I just can't bear to bring the kids into this terrible situation until it clears up some. So you hang onto the home and keep the home fires burning. This will either get much worse or better soon. In the meantime I'll try to work out something in Hofei and get our home there ready for your postponed arrival.

Love,

Doug

% Lawrence Leow, 253 Rue Duplex (an Fin Rd.),
Shanghai. July 8, 1946.

Dear Grace,

I wish I could give you some encouraging news for a change, but I am getting mixed deeper and deeper in the bog of seeds and lack of a Bill of Lading on the "H.W. Raymond" shipment. I received your letter sent to Lyman Hoover, just before he sailed for America, telling of the H.W. Raymond shipment of 10 trunks, 1 refrigerator, & 278 sacks of seeds. But you included only a copy of the Bill of Lading. Oh!! If you had sent one of the Original B/L Loadings, then I could take delivery, No Original B/L has yet reached the Friends Ambulance Unit, nor any place else I may have to abandon the entire shipment for Customs or the Steamship Co. to dispose of for expense charges. Everything is just going wrong.

UNRRA-CVRRA have accepted the seeds but I can't get the CNRRA machinery moving to actually send a truck to the Godown to get them. And on this meantime storage charges have piled up & are piling up on 131 sacks (the 1st two shipments only) at the rate of US\$20⁰⁰ per day. Now the Godown gives me 4 days to get it out, they need the space, or the seeds will be dumped out onto the street, & I pay for that handling. And all the time China needs the seeds. That gives you an idea of the chaotic state of conditions out here.

If only the last two seed shipments had not been made; I would now have all my freight up to Hofer, I'd be there, and starting work, as it is I still see no light. All this will make you feel very bad; I wish I could not tell you, but you must know I am trying to keep my nerves under control so I can take it & continue to work thru the summer heat - for there is nothing else to do.

Mr. Marx & Pauline Starn are also here at Leow. We are terribly crowded. And heavy rains have the streets in this part of Shanghai flooded so rickshaws hold you up to get down town or elsewhere to try to do business. Laundry is difficult, living in two suitcases, where will it all end. I have only my faith in God to sustain me, - and that keeps me sane. When I get a streak of luck - some problem relieved for a bit - I feel fine.

physically, with fair strength. I eat well, but can't get too much, - but enough calories. I sleep 5 to 7 hours most nights now; but at first had to take phenobarbital to get 2 or 3 hrs. sleep. So I'm settling down to the mess and taking what comes when it comes. Just to talk to some one is a great help.

Mr. Marx is a great help. Just to talk to some one of your own & get that release is good medicine. When I get the money for my car I will turn it over to Mr. Marx, as Treasurer of the Mission, to apply in all these terrible costs of handling & storing & customs duties, etc. The Mission has already sent out US \$1000.00 just on the first 2 shipments of seeds & the "Bonzaga Victory" freight. The Yaking Church friends promised to come to our rescue in time of trouble. Now is the time to do something

Do you see why I had Margaret send that cable stopping the sailing of the Corporation family? Your coming would only complicate an already insoluble, (it still seems) problem.

I will never again accept Relief supplies of any kind. It gives no relief to anyone, and is so expensive that the money could be better used for relief in other ways.

Conditions are worsening so rapidly out here in every way, especially in inflation, that by the time a letter gets to you the conditions are no longer hold but are that much worse.

Also things are worsening politically very very rapidly. Mr. Douglas Falconer, deputy director, ^{of UNRRA} visited Mrs. Lew today & talked with him. He said that the UNRRA officials think the end for their program is near; that they will have to pull out soon and let the military fight it out. He says that it is reported to them that a full fledged civil war will break out as soon as the crops are harvested. Then all Americans probably will be ordered out.

that is more reason for not cluttering up China with
more families, to have to try to get passage back
for to get them out of danger, as in 1927 and 1941.
I left the large individual photos in my ward
robe trunk in Hankow. But I have the family
group with me. It certainly reminds me of
better days. How I love you all and wish
I were with you (but not you with me). More
and more I believe that the only smart
thing I have done in China so far is send the
cable stopping your sailing this fall. And
am I happy you have your own home to live
in, and where no one can sell you out. You
had better return the advanced \$50⁰⁰ rent
money, if you haven't already done so. You
will be very disappointed not to be able to
come out to China as planned; but not one
millionth as disappointed or disillusioned
as if you had come to be in China today
is not living. It is serving, — and
at almost if not really a martyr's service,
anyone remaining here, and knowing the
situation, — is most certainly not doing it
for his own good. We are only trying to help
encourage the Chinese Christians carry on,
and the church is rendering a fine service
and many are interested.

All communications are so slow and so uncer-
tain beyond Hankow that a messenger service
is about the surest, and certainly many times
more rapid. A messenger takes a message from
Hankow to Hsuei's via versa in two days. It takes
six to eight days any other way. So Mr. Marx
and I are hatching up a plan to arrange
for two messengers (one at each end) to carry
communications to each other.
We will have no radio in Hsuei for months.
No way to take mine or Wenonah's battery radio in

without breaking it by rough handling. So I am storing them in Lewis closet, top shelf, until some future date. If the train gets them from Pengpu to Hsfei, then I'll consider it. Or after I can get the electric light plant working - who knows when that will ever be. Perhaps this fall some time, if too many parts are not broken on it; or even if it ever gets there at all. Surely one of the two should get there & at least one of them if both get there, be useable.

If I were in Yaking, ready to start packing for Hsfei, and knew what I do now about conditions out here, I'd plan on coming alone for a year's trial. I'd bring only what I could take as baggage, no freight whatsoever. And figure on a minimum of medical and surgical work. No light plants, no heavy furniture, no refrigerator, no Encyclopedia Britannica, nothing too good. I'd try to take a light weight heater large enough to heat my home office room; a bed, bedding, clothes, medical books, etc. But I might not be able to do all that for there's a 500 lb limit on most ships for excess baggage. For Shanghai or Nanlung I'd try freight, but only in heavy crates & double steel strapped. Anything not worth expensive crating is not worth bringing. That's a summary of my present importation information. Give it to others coming out. No relief supplies!

I love you all so much and will be praying for the time when our family will be reunited, but I can't be guilty of bringing you into this hot bed of trouble. I never forgive myself for it's not fair to the kids. So I'm thinking of this from their welfare's side.

Love, Dong.

Care Grace Lew,

253 Rue Dupleix, Shanghai, July 14, 1946.

Dear Grace,

We are making a little progress in our dilemma of seeds and have turned the first two shipments over to CNRRA and the Delivery Order from the shipping company for them to take over the 278 sacks of the last shipment. But I can't get anyone to give me a receipt for them, so that I can show evidence to the Customs officials that I donated them and have such evidence to show the Ministry of Finance in asking to be relieved of paying import duty (10%) on all those seeds. If I have to pay duty it would amount to about US\$1200.00.

I had to pay 10% import duty on the stuff in the 10 trunks and on the refrigerator. With my low estimates on things it amounted to US\$80.00. In order to get these important things on their way to Hofei I had to do it this way rather than have a settlement three months later on a deferred payment. I am not too encouraged about having the duty cancelled then anyway; they need the money and just drag their feet on issuing the huchao until the time limit is up and you automatically have to pay anyway because you haven't located your promised huchao in the maize of official pigeon-holes. Mr. Marx says, "Well, you came out to help these people. You might as well do it financially as in other ways, I suppose." Well, that seems to be the size of it. There is no attempt at helping you because you have put yourself out no end to return and help their refugees. It is an urgent struggle for everyone. It's dog eat dog. Life out here is a grim business. All foreigners have a set jaw and are fighting their way every step. Everyone over-worked and frustrated.

A group of Christian leaders of various missions met this week in answer to a call from USA for them to care for 225 returning missionaries as they passed thru Shanghai. They decided there was no way to do it. They have asked that no one be sent out that does not have definite word that they can get out of Shanghai and on to their station immediately. Some come out here and try to wait here until a way opens up to go inland. Now Communist fighting most everywhere makes interior going impossible in most directions. I am an example of cluttering up Shanghai too long. What if you had come? I tremble to think of it. Many oldtimers, not in missionary work, are arriving here and after a week are trying to get passage back. They are turning right back.

No one is living--just existing--out here. Doing a grim duty is the situation. Mr. Marx, Miss Starn, and I are leaving for Nanking, Tues., July 16th. Marx and I will start working on huchaos for seeds and hospital equipment there. We have many fingers crossed. But he will take over my mess and allow me to at least get to Hofei for once while he worries over it for a while. I am asking Mr. Chu Shao-t'an to come back to Nanking and take me and my baggage in via Pengpu. I hope to leave Nanking about July 22nd if it doesn't rain. If it rains no use attempting it, for you can't get from the railroad to Hofei then.

Please thank Bro. Peterson and the other friends for that cable of encouragement. I was pretty low when that arrived. I am sleeping nights again and am used to messes; you do get hardened to being in trouble. The Lord seems to be working out things for the best. I'm sure I couldn't have done much more about it. Things had reach the bottom of the impossible.

Mr. Marx has re-opened his old office at 302 Missions Building, 169 Yuen Ming Yuen Road, Shanghai altho he will be in Nanking most of the time living with Bates and Smythe at 21 Hankow Road. Cables and urgent mail can be sent to either address; if to the Shanghai address it will be forwarded to Nanking by someone in the office; but the Nanking address will be best.

Do please be careful about expenditures these days. We out here are just existing on our allowances. We couldn't get an adequate diet if we had twice the amount for things are not to be had. There will be no fuel for heat next winter, I am sure of that, for no one can pay US\$200.00 per ton for coal. So we will probably stay in bed to keep warm. Without extralidity and with no malpractice insurance foreign doctors dare not do operations of any risk, for you expose yourself to law suit and no foreigner can hope for justice. "Justice" is only for those who can bribe well, or best. No foreigner now even dares to drive his own car in Shanghai, for he dares not risk hitting a person of another vehicle and having to be sued for damages. So a chauffer is necessary. The Chinese man who bought my truck found that he could not get a lisenese in the interior to use it, for bridges were too weak. So now he brought it back and now can sell it for less than he paid for it. I got out just in time.

Love, Dong.

Dear Grace,

We did a ll we could in Shanghai about seeds and customs, and are now in Nanking working on huchaos for the seeds and hospital equipment. But here it is very unsatisfactory, for they need the money for their civil war and we are asking them to free us from helping pay for it. Without personal contacts you just don't get anywhere. So that is the situation. However, we are getting about some and then Mr. Marx will continue to follow it up, for what it will amount to, after I go on to Hefei. I have asked Lyrel and Wenona to send Mr. Chu Shao-T'an or someone else down to Nanking to help get me and my baggage to Hefei; someone who knows the ropes, for without such help it is impossible to take baggage these days more than ever.

Civil war is on. We expect to be having to evacuate from time to time the same as has had to be done in years past. Only now transportation is a thousand times worse than then. So I'm not ready to bring you and the kids back into this mess. None of us here know how long any of us will be able to remain. This is an experiment. We can on we can't carry on. Time will tell the result. I have no great hope that very much medical and surgical work of any high quality can be carried on in Hefei for six months, if then. And without an efficient set up for sterilizing instruments and surgical supplies I won't dare to do abdominal surgery. Also without extralixy and without malpractice insurance available, and since we as Christian missionaries are unable to resort to bribery, as others can and must do, we are further limited in chances we dare take in surgery to save the serious case that may receive benefit of emergency surgery, but also might not be able to stand the operation. So now if there is any chance of the patient not making it I will have to refuse to operate. That is the very unsatisfactory state of affairs, even if you do have the set-up to do good surgery and in Yakima would go ahead with confidence and give the patient the benefit of the chance. So I may be limiting myself to minor surgery.

Yesterday we had Nathaniel Peffer as a guest for the noon meal, and Smythe, Marx, and I talked with him on the China situation until four in the afternoon. He has been sent out by the US Government and the colleges to try to get a better class of Chinese graduate students for America, as most of those now coming are inferior, spoiled sons of officials who can't do the work. As you know from Peffer's writings, he knows his China, and is a wise gentleman, on oriental affairs. He says he can see no hope in either the Communists or the Kuomintang for an improvement of the political situation in China for at least the next five years. He sees no choice in either party, as the leaders, of the way out to a better China. Both are rotten, he says.

Imported goods are so much cheaper than Chinese made products these days, because of high labor costs chiefly, that there are almost no exports of Chinese goods. As a result their foreign exchange for the payment of imports is very low and now being held for capital goods only. Therefore every month's more and more items are put on the import ban lists. Everything imported, needing foreign exchange in payment, must have a permit from the Central Bank of China. We can't find out if this means that friends in USA are or are not permitted to send parcel post packages of banned goods or not (for this does not require the payment in the precious and disappearing foreign exchange balance). So some folks here are asking relatives in USA to send out small, inexpensive trial parcels of things to them to see if they get by. If admitted we expect to pay twice the original purchase value in customs duty. But at that it is cheap. Banned goods (June 15th) are: all silk or substitutes, toilet articles used for hair, skin or mouth, all canned goods, dried fruits, apples, oranges, lemons, preserved fruits, plastics, fountain pens or nibs, office appliances, or luxuries of all kinds. Passengers bringing in silk clothes must have worn and washed everything or it is confiscated and no receipt given for them. This happened on the Gen. Meigs in many cases. Women had their undies taken from them because they were new and unused.

Communist fighting is nearing Hefei. It is now half-way between Hefei and Luanchow. (30 miles west of Hefei). I hope all of my freight gets thru from Pengou before that route is cut off. I am fully prepared in my mind to lose most of the precious equipment I have brought out for hospital and home use. I wouldn't consider for a moment trying to ship out another thing for Hefei. Shanghai and Nanking, yes. But no further inland. We have no hope for wood or coal for this winter's use. We are trying to figure some way to cook with charcoal and heat a small cubbyhole with charcoal or kerosene. Coal now is US\$200.00 per ton, if you can get it.

I can send only one sheet of this thin paper under the 5 grams of the airmail one unit postage charge, so I am going to try to write on both sides.

I am expecting Lew Carson to sell my Oldsmobile soon, it is all fixed up and looks like new. He hopes to clear around US\$8,000.00 for us. I am asking him to hold out US\$2000.00 for my uses here and send the rest to you. I have to pay for the US\$668.00 freight on the car, that I had to borrow from the Mission funds I brought out as Am. Ex. checks; and other debts I have accumulated on account of the seeds, which the Mission won't have anything to do with, since it is our Yakima foolishness that brought this on ourselves. The money to be sent to you will be sent to your Yakima Bank by Carsons. He says he can now send it at par. You will have to declare this in your income tax report this year. I wish I could have delayed sending it till next year, but political conditions out here are so uncertain that Law Carson says it may be impossible to send money home at any time, and it might all have to be changed into CNO which are due for great inflation at any moment and you would then be left holding a lot of paper trash. So hold this carefully, when you do get it. It may be what we will need to reopen up a practice in Yakima in a year or two, if conditions won't permit of our remaining out here.

Under no condition allow my life insurance to lapse. You can never tell what may happen to me out here, any more than you can in the dangers of traffic in USA. But out here we are so often in places where there is no adequate medical or surgical help, and we are exposed to such vile unsanitary conditions, much worse than ever before, and I haven't forgotten those former days. Here in the Smythe-Bates house we have no screens. We can't possibly breathe with the windows shut. The bot flies come in and cover our table while we are eating meals. We try to keep napkins covering all dishes except the ones we are eating from. But at that it is not possible to keep these flies from coming in from the fertilizer gongs over the fence and contaminating our table dishes. It just is not possible to prevent contamination of food under these conditions. So we must resort to injections, prayer, and doing the best we can to cut down on the contamination of our food. At South City it is better. They do have screens and they are up five stories above the street. They had some screens left and were able to patch the holes in these old ones.

No tub baths in this house either. We can only have sponge baths. I haven't had a tub bath for two months. (Tell Doc) But I hope to be able to work out some way to get a tub bath in Hefei, if I have to go to a public bath house.

Kerosene can be bought here for US\$7.00 per 5-gal. tin. US\$1.00 of that price is for the tin can. Many places they won't sell the tin but will let you have it if you have an old one to turn in on it. I'm considering the purchase of a kerosene burner sometime. But nothing at this time. Everyone is now doing all cooking, water boiling, etc on a single charcoal tin-can stove.

Wenona wrote to Edna July 14th and sent it down by Mrs. Li Shui-chi. She said that they are having lots of trouble in the church. Wang Chi-t'ien has just resigned as pastor to do only country work. They have been fighting over him for some time. It seems that a big thing needed by everyone here is morale, spiritual encouragement. I had lots of pep and plans, and an encouraging outlook when I arrived. But the experiences of the past two months of struggle with seeds and other frustrations, that I haven't much fight left in me. I don't know why I persist in going on into Hefei. I'm sure I won't be much but a "wet blanket" to them. But I'll do the best I can to keep up a "front".

I surely wish I had the help of your companionship for these difficult times ahead, but that can not be as long as we have a responsibility to the kids. We'll just have to stick-

Love, Dong.

Dear Mary and Ruth,

You girls probably are all muddled-up in your minds about what has been happening to our family recently. Dad goes off alone to China to get things ready for the rest of the family to follow in a few months. Then he cables back, "Stop Corpron family sailings this fall", and you are all disappointed, for planning of over a year is knocked into a cocked-hat. You probably said something like this, "He can't do this to us." And I wouldn't have blamed you a bit.

I can assure you that I went through many sleepless nights of debate before I could bring myself to send that telegram. It meant that I would be out here alone at least a whole year without your company to keep me happy and normal under the most trying of circumstances. You will be disappointed. But you will have each other, your mother, your friends, ~~your friends~~, your own home, enough to eat, and all of that which I will not have, and you could not have if you were here. Also, the dangers from war, civil war and bandits, are so great here now that I dare not subject more than one of our family to them. If I had dragged you kids out here and you discovered what a dirty trick I had played on you, you would be within your rights to have blamed me the rest of your lives for having subjected you to this. You have a right to live your own lives; just as your mother and I have a right to choose for ourselves; and I want to be fair with you.

I did not know what I was getting myself into when I left Yakima; even now that I am telling you you can't visualize the situation here; words can't describe them. If I had known I doubt if I could have had nerve to pick up and come on out here. It may turn out alright, and it may prove in the end for the best for the Christian work in Hofei that I have come; time will tell more about that. But now that I am up to my neck in this situation I must go on with it; I must see if it is possible to do what I am, with God's help, attempting to do. It may not be possible, but I will do my best to do it; and have the satisfaction of having tried even if it doesn't work out as planned. One thing certain, most of my wonderful plans for reopening the hospital on a similar scale of efficiency to the one we left behind to the Japanese, with electric light plants, modern surgery, a nurses training school, a midwifery school, well baby clinics, country clinics, etc. will have to be greatly modified; we will have to just do what we can with much less than we had before the war. It is not a matter of money. With all the money we might need we couldn't get the equipment here and keep it working. Those are things I couldn't know before hand. But we will do the best we can and make a contribution to the Christian ideal of alleviating suffering in Christ's name. If we do what we can do in the proper Christian spirit it will preach its message in Hofei.

So you girls must be patient, with me and your mother, and hope and pray that we are being guided by God in the doing of His work. It is your sacrifice as well as mine. We are one family, and this is a family job. I am praying every day that we may all be faithful in our duties and opportunities.

Things have been in pretty much of a mess for me for the past two months, but they seem to be working out much better now. As you know from my last letter to your mother I got UNRRA in Shanghai to take the seeds off of my hands and a promise from CNRRA to pay the cost of handling them in Shanghai (a half a million dollars Chinese money). Then I came to Nanking to work on the Government officials in the Ministry of Finance to get them to excuse me from paying import-duty on the seeds and the hospital equipment. This too has been successful, and yesterday I saw the permits with my own eyes that were sent to the Shanghai Customs officials ordering them to cancel this import-duty. So now, for the first time in two months I am a free man and am on my way to Hofei to do what I came out to do, a bit of medical and surgical work.

The Communists and Nationalists are having a full fledged civil war all along the railroad where I have to go, so I may be held up here a few days or even longer before I can get through to Pengpu. Also there is fighting half way between Hofei and Luanchow (just 30 miles west of Hofei). It is very possible that Aunt Nona and Aunt Lyrel and I will have to beat it out of Hofei sooner or later and leave all of the nice things we have been struggling to transport to Hofei for the past three months. So we are keeping this possibility in mind and trying not to be too disappointed if it happens again. Do you see why I don't want to bring you folks into this mess also?

This missionary business has been that way for much of the 22 years we have been in China, and it is worse now than at any time we have been here before unless it might be in 1927 when the Communists drove us out. We must keep our eyes open to the dangers and try to do what we can but not fool ourselves into peaceful slumbers when everything is boiling about us.

Now I hope you children will understand the situation and realize that I decided to stop your coming out to China at this time because I loved you more than I loved myself, and my own wishes for normal family life. Perhaps the turn of events will prove that I was overly cautious; but I think that will not be true; and I had to try to be a prophet and deal in the future. So this means that we will have to be separated for at least one whole year. You will be starting to YHS this fall and DOC will no doubt start to college somewhere. You two may get out here next year; but DOC probably will not come until he comes on his own some day after he finishes college. I hate to give up all the dreams I had for this next year, but I figure it is better to change the plan than be sorry you didn't after it is too late.

I hope you girls will be considerate of your mother and try in every way to help her and not make things harder for her. She has to be both dad and mother to you now for a time; so try your best to help her. And sure you will. You children have had good training, you have good consciences that are well developed. We are depending on you and know that we can.

The weather has been very hot and very sultry in Shanghai and Nanking for the past month. We have had a few days of relief at times but for the most part it has been very hot and it takes the pep out of a person. I just drag around and yet must keep going to get round and see all the men I must see to get my business done. And I don't have a car to jump into to go places. I must ride on crowded street cars, stand up in crowded trucks, go seven in a horse carriage, or usually walk. I have kept well though, and have lost only 15 pounds. I thought I had lost more but last week I found a scale and found it wasn't as bad as I had thought. Now if I can keep up my strength and not put that extra weight back on I should feel much better.

I think it would be nice for you to try sending a few small parcel post packages to me from time to time, as an experiment. It may be that they will be lost in the mail here, and it may be that they will be banned from coming into the country. But try a few to see what happens. Don't send expensive things, so that the loss would be too great. Make it only one or two pounds each package. Suggested things to send might be Brushless shave cream, shaving lotion, toilet soap, and anything else you see fit to try. Wed., July 24th. I am going to start for Hefei in the morning. Mr. Chu Shao-Tian has just arrived from Hefei and is to conduct me there. He came down specially at my request. There is fighting near Peng and many soldiers are going north on the railway, but he got thru yesterday and thinks we can do it tomorrow. Wenona is sick with a fever and dysentery so I must hurry on at once, war or no war. So the next letter I'll write to you will, no doubt, be from Hefei.

So this is it, good bye for the present. I love you all so much and how I long for you to all be with me, -but not out here in the mess with me. I love you too much to wish that onto you. So no matter what happens to you or to me, no matter when we may again be together, I want you to know that I have decided as I did because I loved you more than I loved myself and my own comfort and pleasure. I hope this civil war phase of conditions out here may soon be over so that we can again have a normal family life. Let's all pray for that day and in the meantime all do our duty and prove ourselves worthy of the high calling that God has called us to, to be His Ambassadors in China. You are having just as much a share in this work as if you were out here; for you can live and work like Christian missionary children should do, and be an honor to Christ there in Yachina.

Remember me in your prayers, as I will you every day and many times daily. I am so happy that your mother and I had you and that you are such a blessing to us. We are proud of you and know we can continue to be proud of you.

Love,

David

Number all parcels
for my family